

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously presented) A television rating system for targeted program delivery, comprising:

a server-side system for evaluating television viewing data and for categorizing the data into user category groups;

a clustering engine included in the server-side system for receiving the television viewing data , processing the television viewing data , and generating user profiles targeting the user category groups;

a client-side system coupled to the server-side system and adapted to classify a television user into at least one of the user category groups;

a contextual behavioral profiling system included in the client-side system for deriving profiling information related to a television user's viewing behavior with content and usage-related preferences; and

a behavioral model database connected to the profiling system for storing in the client-side system the profiling information related to the television user's viewing behavior.

2. (Previously presented) The television rating system according to claim 1, wherein said clustering engine is a software agent residing in a central computer system at a television distribution head-end in the server side system and is programmed to create template behavioral profiles each corresponding to an associated one of the targeted user category groups.

3. (Previously presented) The television rating system according to claim 2, wherein said clustering engine is trained substantially exclusively on tagged viewing data from a given target group to learn a most general profile of the given target group.

4. (Previously presented) The television rating system according to claim 2, wherein said clustering engine is programmed to generalize user profiles in a targeted category group into an aggregation representative of all dimensions most strongly in common for the targeted group and all dimensions most unique across several of the targeted groups.

5. (Previously presented) The television rating system according to claim 1, which further comprises an advertisement manager residing at the server-side system and connected to query said behavioral model database in the client-side system, said advertisement manager being programmed to parameterize behavioral profiles of said behavioral model database and to download the parameterized behavioral profiles to an advertising category membership agent residing at said client-side system.

6. (Previously presented) The television rating system according to claim 5, wherein said advertisement manager includes a television user's history and is configured to reconstruct the downloaded parameterized behavior profiles in accordance with the television user's history to determine a most likely advertising category for the user, and to store the results as targeting category probabilities in a user category database.

7. (Previously presented) The television rating system according to claim 5, which further comprises targeting agents and presentation agents disposed at said client-side system for creating an optimization of targeted category probabilities and relevant preference information in order to selectively capture, store, and display advertisements downloaded in accordance with the optimization.

8. (Previously presented) In an interactive display system having a head-end side for distributing program content that has been pruned for a user category, and a client side receiving the program content and selectively displaying the program content in accordance with the selection of a user, a preference engine for determining a preferred program content for the user, comprising: a user monitoring device receiving the pruned program content at the client side for recording contextual transition behaviors profiling the user to continually build a user profile of preferences and contextual transition behaviors associated with the user; and a program distributing device at the head-end side for providing to the user the program content in accordance with the user profile.

9. (Previously presented) The interactive display system and preference engine according to claim 8, wherein said user monitoring device models the user's behavioral interaction with advertising program content and with entertainment program content.

10. (Previously presented) The interactive display system and preference engine according to claim 8 wherein the program distributing device is connected to receive from the head-end metadata information describing advertising content and entertainment program content, and is programmed to adjust the user profile by combining the metadata information with the preferences and contextual transition behaviors of the user, and to build a relational knowledge base with associations among the behavior, demographics, and program content preferences of the user.

11. (Previously presented) The interactive display system and preference engine according to claim 8 wherein the user maintaining device is programmed to model patterns of usage behaviors with a behavioral model and to extract key usage information from the behavioral model into a behavioral database having a confidence value that reflects an estimate of a structural and sampling quality of the data in the database.

12. (Previously presented) In a program content delivery system having a head-end side and a client side, a system for targeting program delivery, comprising: a central data system at the head-end side which receives viewing information selected from the group consisting of watch data, watch start time data, watch duration data, and watch channel data, demographic information describing a program user, and electronic program guide

information with metadata describing a program content; a demographic cluster knowledge base acquirer receiving from the client side behavioral data of the user, the knowledge base acquirer outputting a knowledge base in the form of a transition matrix with weight sets, the transition matrix predicting a demographic group of the user; and a program content generating module disposed at the head-end side and providing to the client side streams of program content based on the predicted demographic group of the user.

13. (Previously presented) The program content delivery system according to claim 12, which further comprises a realtime feedback link for delivering to said central data system at the head-end side realtime information with click stream data concerning the viewing behavior of the user.

14. (Previously presented) The program content delivery system according to claim 12, wherein said demographic cluster knowledge base acquirer is based on a hidden Markov model.

15. (Previously presented) The program content delivery system according to claim 12, wherein said demographic cluster knowledge base acquirer and said program content generating module are software modules each adapted to be stored on a machine-readable medium in the form of a plurality of processor-executable instructions.

16. (Previously presented) The program content delivery system according to claim 12, wherein said demographic cluster knowledge base acquirer generates demographic cluster information of the user in terms of statistical state machine transition models.

17. (Previously presented) The program content delivery system according to claim 16, wherein the state machines transition models are defined in the transition matrix at the head-end side, and the transition matrix contains information of program transitions initiated by the viewer at the client side.

18. (Previously presented) The program content delivery system according to claim 12, wherein the transition matrix is one of at least two concurrent transition matrices including a channel matrix and a genre matrix.

19. (Previously presented) The program content delivery system according to claim 12, wherein the transition matrix is a two-dimensional matrix with transitions from television channels in normal form to television channels in temporal form.

20. (Previously presented) The program content delivery system according to claim 14, wherein said demographic cluster knowledge base acquirer is configured to parameterize the user's behavior with a double random pseudo hidden Markov process, and to define a low-level statistical state machine modeling a behavioral cluster and a top-level statistical state machine with active behavioral clusters and an interaction among the active

behavioral clusters.

21. (Previously presented) The program content delivery system according to claim 12, wherein said demographic cluster knowledge base acquirer is configured to define a double random process with a plurality of dimensions, and to determine parallel statistical state machine transition events in at least two of three state categories including channel, genre, and title of the program content.